

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Harris et al.
Filed: Concurrently Herewith
For: DEGRADABLE HETEROBIFUNCTIONAL POLY(ETHYLENE
GLYCOL) ACRYLATES AND GELS AND CONJUGATES
DERIVED THEREFROM

April 2, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on line 3, page 1 to read as follows:

This application is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/226,341, filed January 6, 1999, which is related to commonly owned copending Provisional Application Serial No. 60/070,680, filed January 7, 1998, incorporated by reference in its entirety, and claims the benefit of its filing date under USC 119(e).

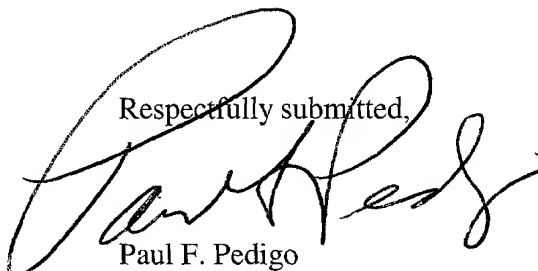
In The Claims:

Please delete Claims 22 through 25.

REMARKS

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul F. Pedigo

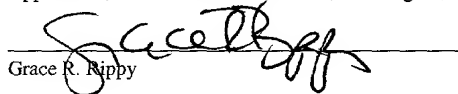
Registration No. 31,650

CUSTOMER NO. 000826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL836092592US
Date of Deposit: April 2, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Grace R. Rippy



Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

This application is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/226,341, filed January 6, 1999, which is related to commonly owned copending Provisional Application Serial No. 60/070,680, filed January 7, 1998, incorporated by reference in its entirety, and claims the benefit of its filing date under USC 119(e).